

ATRA BAER'S TV Views

FOIAb3b

NBC Presents A Real-Life Spy Sizzler

CPYRGHT (Pinchhitting for Jack O'Brian Who Is Ill)

LAST NIGHT ON TV: NBC News let go with a shocker: "The Science of Spying" (10 to 11 p.m.) in which former CIA officials got candid about the organization's activities, especially in Central America.

NBC claims "full responsibility" for program content, as the ground rules say a good network should, as narrator John Chancellor editorialized on what was called the CIA's "secret offenses" against our morality.

"It is getting more and more difficult these days to be an American," Mr. Chancellor said, "and there seems to be little we can do about it any more."

Present CIA officials were not around but three former CIA men were, including Richard Bissell, former director of plans, famed for developing the U-2 and being the "architect of the Bay of Pigs."

When asked if "immoral means justify a moral end" Mr. Bissell said that "espionage and subversion are a level on which we must be prepared to meet our enemy." Also on camera was former CIA chief Allan Dulles who somewhat sadly agreed.



FORMER AGENT FRED SHERWOOD said that down in Guatemala he received an offer to import "Cuban and Puerto Rican gangsters" who "would kill any 12 Communists for \$50,000." Mr. Sherwood said he was unable to raise all of the money and the deal never came off.

A highlight—if you can properly call it that which you can't—was an interview with top rebel leader Marco Antonio Von Sola, who blew up a truckload of soldiers and supplies outside of the American military mission.

Reminded the NBC reporter: "You also tried to kill the head of the American military mission."

"We didn't do it," soothed Sola, "just because you are gringos." (Sola was speaking through an armed interpreter and was of course hiding in the hills in the style of all the rebel leaders.) The insurgent went on to touch vaguely on U.S. policy in Viet Nam. "I know," he signed understandingly, "anybody can feel indignant when a truckload of their soldiers is blown up."

Not in the least incredibly, not incredible at all, but halfway through this real-life spy sizzler, NBC ran a "James Bread from Bond" commercial . . . anyway you slice it, that's TV.